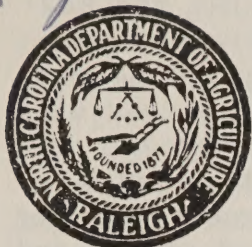


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NORTH CAROLINA



No. 227

RALEIGH, N. C.

FEBRUARY 27, 1957

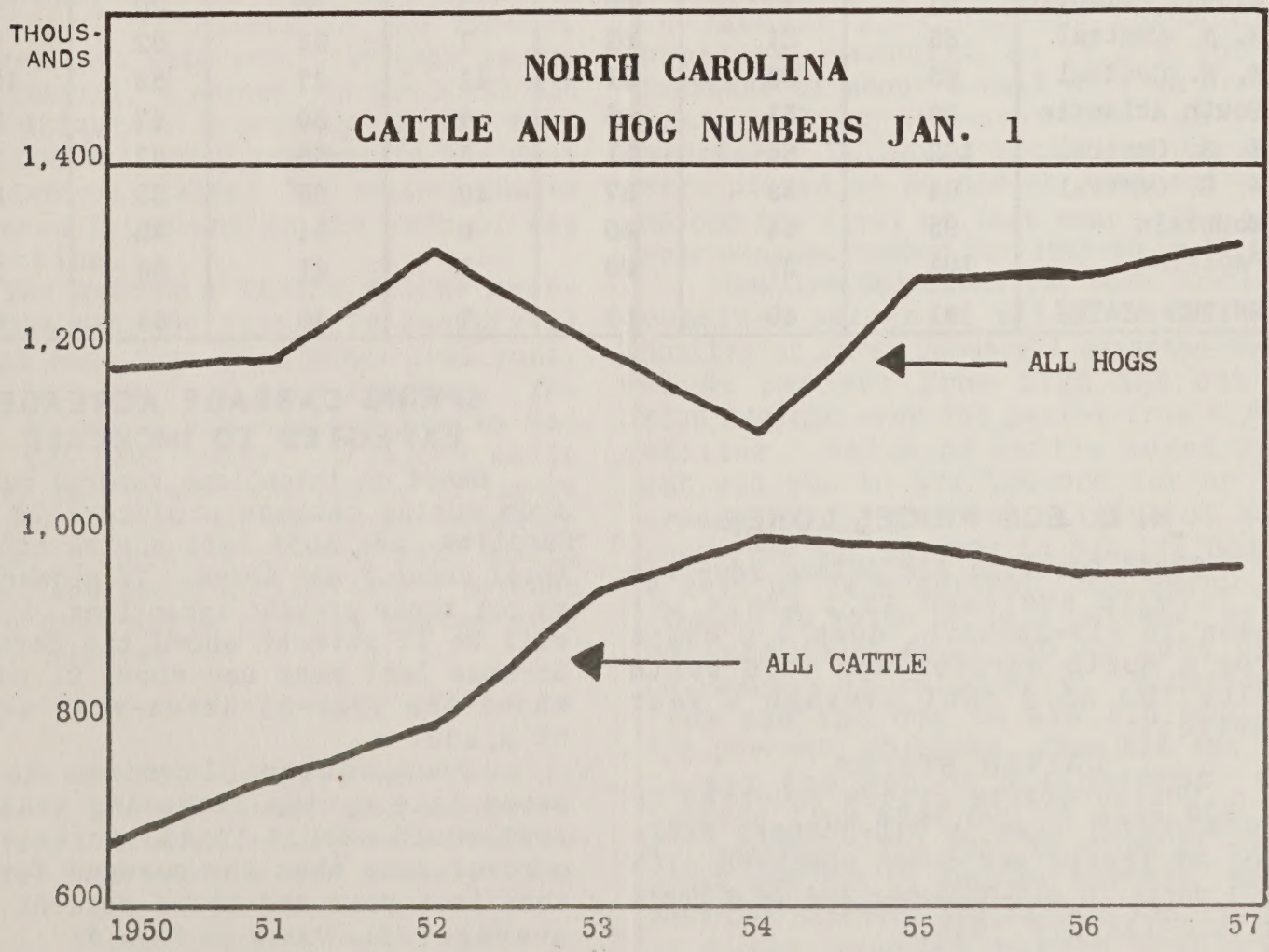
## LIVESTOCK NUMBERS INCREASE

With the exception of workstock, which have declined rapidly for a number of years, numbers of North Carolina livestock on farms as of January 1 showed an increase over those reported a year earlier. All cattle, estimated at 965,000 were up 10,000 head, or about one percent, and they were approximately 24 percent above the 1946-55 ten-year average of 780,000. Practically all of the increase came in milk stock--cows and heifers two years old and over having risen from 375,000 to 379,000, while the number combined with younger animals being kept for milk rose from 544,000 to

553,000. All other cattle, or those kept primarily for beef, at 412,000 on January 1 were little changed from the 411,000 on farms a year earlier.

Hogs on farms amounted to 1,314,000 as compared with 1,276,000 on hand as of January 1, 1956, reflecting an increase for the year of three percent and showing a rise of 11 percent above the ten-year average of 1,182,000. By age groups, pigs up to six months old increased from 750,000 on January 1, 1956 to 791,000 as of January 1, 1957, a 5.5 percent gain; sows and gilts moved from 190,000 to

*(Continued on Page 3)*





## INTENDED PURCHASES OF BABY CHICKS EXPECTED LOWER IN 1957

This year farmers plan to buy 9 percent fewer chicks than last year. Some difference between their February plans and their actual purchases are to be expected depending on egg and feed price relationships and other developments during the coming hatching season. All areas show a decrease except the East South Central and Pacific Coast States where intended chick purchases are up 2 and 4 percent respectively. Intended decreases from last year in chick purchases are 17 percent in the West North Central States, 14 percent in the East North Central, 9 percent in the Middle Atlantic, 6 percent in the West South Central, 5 percent in the

Mountain and 1 percent in the New England and South Atlantic States.

Farmers now plan that 40 percent of their chick purchases this year will be straight run chicks, 54 percent pullet chicks and 6 percent cockerels. Last year they bought 40 percent straight run chicks, 53 percent pullet chicks and 7 percent cockerels, compared with 43 percent straight run chicks, 50 percent pullet chicks and 7 percent cockerels in 1955 and 45 percent straight run, 49 percent pullets and 6 percent cockerels in 1954. The percentage purchases in 1954 and 1955 as straight run, pullets and cockerel chicks are on a revised basis.

### INTENDED PURCHASES OF BABY CHICKS

GEOGRAPHIC DIVISIONS	Intended Purchases as a % of 1956 Purchases	PERCENT OF TOTAL					
		BABY CHICKS BOUGHT IN 1956			BABY CHICKS INTENDED IN 1957		
		Straight run	Pullet chicks	Cockerel chicks	Straight run	Pullet chicks	Cockerel chicks
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
New England	99	12	79	9	12	79	9
Middle Atlantic	91	27	68	5	26	70	4
E. N. Central	86	31	62	7	31	62	7
W. N. Central	83	38	51	11	37	53	10
South Atlantic	99	51	45	4	50	47	3
E. S. Central	102	64	31	5	65	32	3
W. S. Central	94	53	37	10	59	33	8
Mountain	95	54	40	6	51	42	7
Pacific	104	37	60	3	41	56	3
UNITED STATES	91	40	53	7	40	54	6

### N. C. EGG PRICES LOWER

North Carolina egg prices received by farmers averaged 42.2 cents per dozen in mid-January, down 3.9 cents from a month earlier and 13.6 cents below the 55.8 cent average a year earlier.

#### UNITED STATES

United States prices received by producers for eggs in mid-January averaged 33.2 cents per dozen compared with 37.1 cents in mid-December and 46.6 cents in mid-January 1956.

### SPRING CABBAGE ACREAGE EXPECTED TO INCREASE

Based on intentions reports received from spring cabbage producers in North Carolina, the 1957 late spring crop will total about 2,800 acres. If growers carry out their present intentions, the crop will be 17 percent above the harvested acreage last year and about 31 percent above the 1949-55 seven-year average of 2,130.

Prospective plantings for the seven late spring producing states in 1957 would occupy 10,450 acres--eight percent more than the acreage for harvest last year and three percent above average. (See Table on Page 8)



## RECORD JANUARY EGG PRODUCTION

Egg production in North Carolina during January 1957 is estimated at 146 million. This is 12 percent above the previous January record established in 1956 when 130 million eggs were produced.

The average number of layers for January on hand in the state is estimated at 9,428,000. This is 4 percent above the 9,099,000 on hand a year earlier. January rate of lay of 15.5 eggs per bird compares with 14.3 a year earlier and is primarily responsible for the heavy increase in production.

U. S. farm flocks laid 5,369 million eggs in January--4 percent more than in January 1956 and 9 percent above the 10-year average. Egg production was at record high levels for the month in the West North Central and South Atlantic States and was above last year in all sections of the country except the West where it was 2 percent below January 1956. Increases from a year ago were 9 percent in the South Central, 7 percent in the South Atlantic, 5 percent in the West North Central and 3 percent in the North Atlantic and the East North Central States.

Rate of egg production in January was 16.0 eggs per layer, compared with 15.6 a year earlier and the average of 13.4 eggs. Increases in the rate of lay over last year were 7 percent in the South Central, 4 percent in the North and South Atlantic, 3 percent in the West North Central and 2 percent in the East North Central States. The Western States decreased 1 percent in the rate of egg production.

The Nation's laying flocks averaged 334,687,000 layers in January--1 percent more than in January last year, but 9 percent less than average. The North Atlantic and Western States had about the same number of layers as in January last year. The number of layers was up 3 percent in the South Atlantic States, 2 percent in the West North Central and South Central and 1 percent in the East North Central States over a year earlier.

*CHICKEN PRICES: Prices received for chickens (farm chickens and commercial broilers) in mid-January were the lowest for the month since January 1941.*

## RECORD MILK PRODUCTION IN 1956

A record 1,740,000,000 pounds of milk was produced in North Carolina during 1956. The record output exceeds the previous high (revised 1955 production) by 55,000,000 pounds. The 1956 production was attained from an estimated 355,000 milk cows, 5,000 less than were on farms in 1955. During 1956, milk production per cow averaged 4,900 pounds, an increase of 220 pounds over the 4,680 pounds reached in 1955.

*(Continued on Page 6)*

## LIVESTOCK NUMBERS *(Continued)*

207,000 a rise of nine percent; while other hogs showed a decline by dropping six percent from 336,000 to 316,000.

## TOTAL LIVESTOCK VALUES HIGHER

Sheep and lambs on farms at 58,000 were 5,000 above those on hand a year earlier and 16,000 above the ten-year average. The inventory has steadily increased since 1950 and now stands at the highest level since 1938.

Chickens on farms in North Carolina on January 1, excluding commercial broilers, amounted to 13,014,000 an increase of about a half million over a year earlier and over the ten-year average. Turkeys, excluding fryers, were placed at 69,000 as compared with 65,000 the first of last year. The ten-year average number for 1946-55 is 52,000.

Despite decreases for some species, combined values of all livestock and poultry on farms January 1 advanced about eight percent from \$126,589,000 to \$136,648,000 over the period from a year earlier. Value of cattle moved from \$66,850,000 to \$73,340,000 for an increase of 9.7 percent. Value of hogs rose from \$23,351,000 to \$29,171,000 at a gain of 24.9 percent, and sheep increased in value by 14.2 percent, or in dollars from \$853,000 to \$974,000. Decreasing in value were: Workstock, from \$20,790,000 to \$19,170,000, or 7.8 percent; chickens, from \$14,401,000 to \$13,665,000 or 5.1 percent; and turkeys from \$344,000 to \$328,000, or 4.7 percent. The drop in value of workstock was due to smaller numbers, while that for chickens and turkeys was because of lower average values per head.





LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY ON FARMS: INVENTORY NUMBERS AND VALUES ON JANUARY 1 - NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES

SPECIES AND CLASSIFICATION	NORTH CAROLINA									UNITED STATES								
	Numbers On January 1			Value Per Head			Total Value			Numbers On January 1			Value Per Head			Total Value		
	1946-55 Average	1956 Revised	1957 Prel.	1946-55 Average	1956	1957	1946-55 Average	1956 Revised	1957 Prel.	1946-55 Average	1956 Revised	1957 Prel.	1946-55 Average	1956	1957	1946-55 Average	1956 Revised	1957 Prel.
HORSES AND MULES - Total 2 years plus..... Under 2 years old.....	THOUSAND HEAD			DOLLARS			THOUSAND DOLLARS			THOUSAND HEAD			DOLLARS			THOUSAND DOLLARS		
	329	231	213	151.00	90.00	90.00	51,623	20,790	19,170	7,448	3,928	3,558	63.90	62.60	71.60	498,483	245,919	254,913
	-	227	209	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,076	3,728	3,364	-	-	-	-	-	-
CATTLE - Total..... Milk Stock..... Cows & Heifers 2 yrs. plus, Heifers 1 - 2 years... Heifer Calves.....	780	995	965	94.00	70.00	76.00	72,546	66,850	73,340	85,142	96,804	95,166	120.00	88.00	91.60	10,142,324	8,523,592	8,715,177
	-	544	553	-	-	-	-	-	-	36,120	34,737	34,458	-	-	-	-	-	-
	378	375	379	121.00	90.00	101.00	33,750	38,279	38,279	24,223	23,213	23,028	175.00	139.00	147.00	4,198,535	3,219,651	3,382,974
Other Cattle: L/..... Cows 2 years plus..... Heifers 1 - 2 years... Calves..... Steers 1 year plus.... Bulls 1 year plus.....	-	90	92	-	-	-	-	-	-	5,629	5,480	5,391	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	90	92	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,268	6,044	6,039	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	411	412	-	-	-	-	-	-	49,022	62,067	60,708	-	-	-	-	-	-
SHEEP - Total..... On feed..... Stock Sheep..... Ewe Lambs..... Wethers & Ram Lambs... Ewes 1 year plus..... Rams 1 year plus..... Wethers 1 year plus...	42	53	58	18.00	16.10	16.80	766	853	974	33,242	31,273	30,838	-	-	-	559,030	445,501	461,609
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,548	4,261	4,468	-	-	-	-	-	-
	42	53	58	18.00	16.10	16.80	766	853	974	28,694	27,012	26,370	17.00	14.30	14.90	481,424	384,984	394,208
HOGS - Total..... Under 6 months..... Sows & Gilts 6 mos. plus.. Others 6 mos. plus....	1,182	1,276	1,314	26.50	18.30	22.20	31,393	23,351	29,171	55,963	55,173	52,207	32.50	17.70	24.70	1,808,430	978,397	1,287,151
	-	750	791	-	-	-	-	-	-	29,785	34,062	33,246	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	190	207	-	-	-	-	-	-	9,282	8,557	8,423	-	-	-	-	-	-
CHICKENS - Total 2/..... Hens..... Pullets..... Other Chickens 2/.....	12,562	12,523	13,014	1.32	1.15	1.05	16,629	14,401	13,665	437,070	382,846	392,811	1.40	1.26	1.17	614,504	481,265	459,732
	-	4,492	4,537	-	-	-	-	-	-	135,847	121,719	119,833	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	6,574	7,166	-	-	-	-	-	-	269,567	238,579	251,585	-	-	-	-	-	-
TURKEYS - Total 3/..... All heavy breeds..... All light breeds..... Total breeder hens.... Heavy breeder hens.... Light breeder hens....	52	65	69	6.38	5.30	4.75	330	344	328	5,317	4,923	5,745	6.57	5.50	5.05	34,588	27,100	29,009
	-	55	64	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,193	5,035	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	10	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	730	710	-	-	-	-	-	-
L/ Primarily for beef purposes. 2/ Does not include commercial broilers. 3/ Does not include turkey fryers.	-	41	42	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,374	3,231	3,617	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	38	40	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,775	3,170	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	456	447	-	-	-	-	-	-



## SLIGHT INCREASE IN EARLY SUMMER POTATOES

Based on reports from producers, the early summer potato crop in North Carolina is expected to amount to about 9,500 acres. If growers follow through on their present intentions the 1957 planted acreage will amount to only 100 acres more than was harvested last year and it will be 32 percent under the 1949-55 seven-year average of 14,000 acres. The early summer crop is produced mainly in the Piedmont section and in southern mountain areas and is made up principally of "farm potatoes" produced noncommercially. Commercial production of this seasonal group is largely confined to Hendersonville area and nearby vicinities.

### UNITED STATES

Growers of early summer potatoes in the United States reported about February 1 intentions to plant 105,400 acres in 1957, 5 percent above the acreage in 1956 but 5 percent below 1955. A large increase in acreage is indicated for the panhandle section of Texas. Growers in Delaware, Eastern Shore and Norfolk areas of Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Kentucky and Texas reported some increase over their 1956 acreage. No change from last year

was reported for Missouri, Kansas and Tennessee while small decreases are expected in Maryland, and the central area of Virginia.

Growers of early spring, late spring and early summer acreages have reported intentions to plant 304,500 acres in 1957 or 4 percent more than the 1956 planted acreage of 293,600 acres.

### MILK (Continued)

#### UNITED STATES

Milk production on United States farms in 1956 reached an alltime high of 125.7 billion pounds, according to revised estimates. This exceeds the previous record for 1955 by more than 2.5 billion pounds. Annual production per cow averaged 6,006 pounds -- above the 6,000 mark for the first time on record and nearly one-fourth higher than a decade earlier. Numbers of milk cows on farms continued to decline, totaling 20,927,000 for 1956, the smallest annual number in records dating back through 1924. Numbers of heifers and heifer calves on farms January 1, 1957, for replacing milk cows were down from a year earlier and the smallest since the late 1940's.

## IRISH POTATOES

Seasonal Group And State	PLANTED ACREAGE			YIELD PER PLANTED ACRE			PRODUCTION		
	Average 1949-55	1956	Indi- cated 1957	Average 1949-55	1956	Indi- cated 1957	Average 1949-55	1956	Indi- cated 1957
	<u>1,000 Acres</u>	<u>1,000 Acres</u>	<u>1,000 Acres</u>	<u>Cwt.</u>	<u>Cwt.</u>	<u>Cwt.</u>	<u>1,000 Cwt.</u>	<u>1,000 Cwt.</u>	<u>1,000 Cwt.</u>
EARLY SUMMER:									
Mo.	13.5	10.0	10.0	61	70	(June)	820	700	(June)
Kans.	6.2	3.0	3.0	44	39	( 10 )	277	117	( 10 )
Del.	5.7	9.0	9.5	135	185	"	853	1,665	"
Md.	4.2	3.0	2.9	97	105	"	409	315	"
Va.-E. Shore	20.4	19.7	21.5	125	138	"	2,576	2,719	"
-Norfolk	4.2	2.8	2.9	103	100	"	438	280	"
-Other	8.6	7.3	7.0	65	58	"	560	423	"
N. Car.	14.0	9.4	9.5	62	65	"	878	611	"
Ga.	4.0	2.8	3.0	36	36	"	142	101	"
Ky.	19.9	15.0	15.3	55	60	"	1,096	900	"
Tenn.	19.7	13.0	13.0	57	56	"	1,114	728	"
Texas	6.2	5.9	7.8	137	160	"	818	944	"
TOTAL E. SUMMER	126.7	100.9	105.4	79.0	94.2	"	9,980	9,503	"



## WEATHER SUMMARY FOR JANUARY, 1957

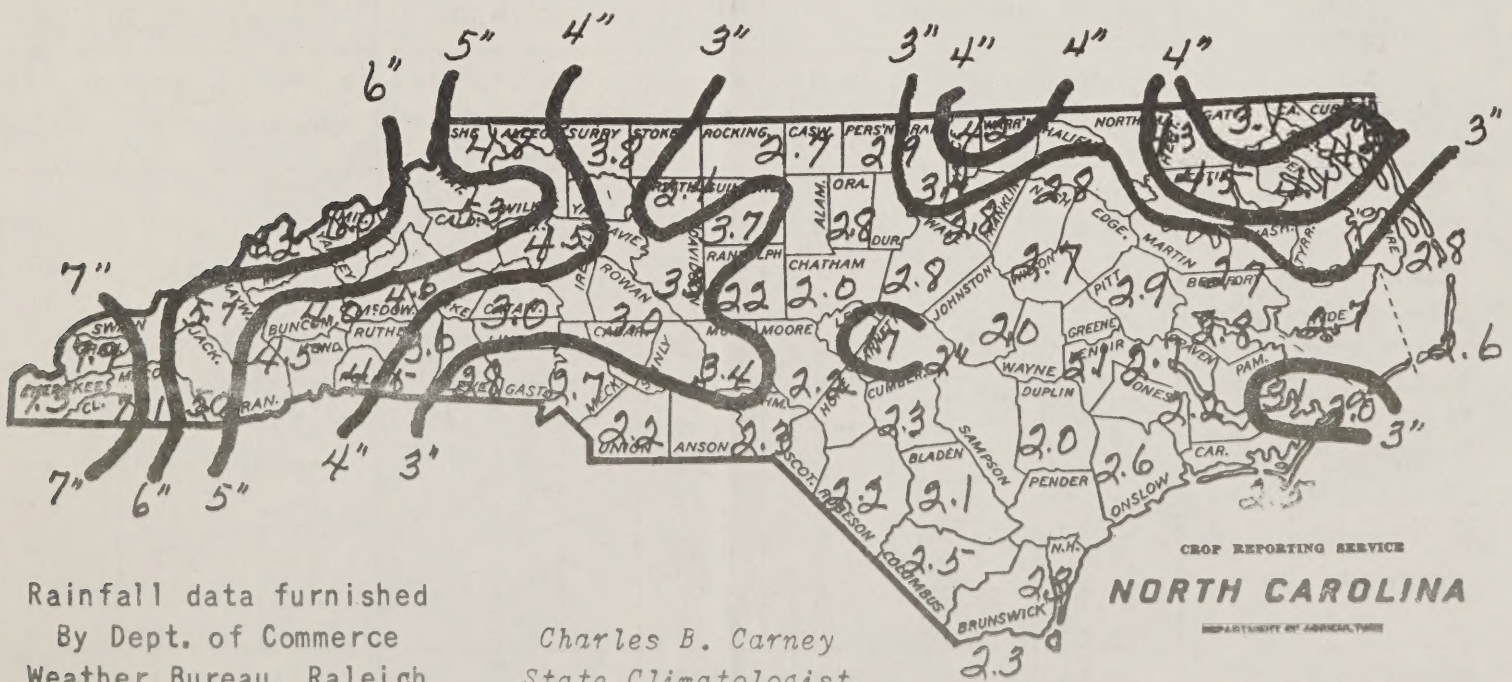
The first month of 1957 was the cloudiest month in several years over North Carolina. The average amount of sky covered with clouds during the month was about three-fourths, and sunshine was recorded only about 40 percent of the daylight hours. The only generally clear weather of the month occurred on the 2nd, and on the 18th and 19th; there were several days with unbroken cloudiness over most of the State, and some coastal points reported more than half the days completely cloudy. With all the clouds and gloom there was very little stormy weather, and the highest wind recorded at any weather station was only forty miles per hour. There were local thunderstorms on the 29th, however, and a small tornado was unofficially reported in Iredell County.

**TEMPERATURE:** There was a wide range of temperatures in North Carolina during January, ranging from the upper seventies over most of the State on the afternoons of the 28th and 29th to below zero on some of the higher mountain peaks the morning of the 18th. Many individual stations recorded the highest and lowest January temperatures to occur in several years. In general, the coldest weather came during a one-week period centered around mid-

month. Before that, temperatures had ranged very close to normal for the time of year; after the cold spell ended around the 20th, the rest of the month was mostly unseasonably warm. Averaged over the month, most sections of the State were normal or just a little on the cool side for January.

**PRECIPITATION.** Rain occurred with unusual frequency in January, most stations having at least a sprinkle on 20 or more of the 31 days. The daily amounts were mostly small, however, and up until the last few days of the month very few places had anything like the usual January amount. During the last few days, particularly on the 31st, heavier rains occurred, even so, there were very few places outside the Mountains that had as much rainfall in January as the long-term average for the month. Most stations east of the Mountains had less than three inches, with a few exceptions near the Virginia line getting up to four and a half. Larger amounts fell in the Mountains, ranging up to seven or eight inches on the southern and western slopes. Snow, sleet, or freezing rain fell over most of North Carolina on the 15th, and in the Mountains on several days.

### INCHES OF RAINFALL FOR JANUARY, 1957





# FARM REPORT

Compiled by authority of  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Agricultural Marketing Service  
Agricultural Estimates Division  
S. R. Newell, Director

Published by  
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Division of Statistics  
L. Y. Ballentine, Commissioner of Agriculture

Released semi-monthly through the  
Crop Reporting Service at Raleigh  
Henry L. Rasor, Statistician in Charge

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## SPRING CABBAGE INTENTIONS AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 1957

CROP AND STATE	ACREAGE			YIELD PER ACRE			PRODUCTION		
	Average 1949-55	1956	Indi- cated 1957	Average 1949-55	1956	Indi- cated 1957	Average 1949-55	1956	Indi- cated 1957
	-	<u>Acres</u>	-	-	<u>Cwt.</u>	-	-	<u>1,000 Cwt.</u>	-
CABBAGE - 1/ Late Spring 2/									
N. Carolina	2,130	2,400	2,800	119	140	May	253	336	May
Virginia	2,360	2,400	2,600	120	120	10	282	288	10
Tennessee	2,750	2,350	2,500	137	140		378	329	
Kentucky	360	180	-	123	170		43	31	
Maryland	950	850	850	119	132		111	112	
Missouri	940	820	900	98	110		92	90	
Ohio	640	700	800	190	200		120	140	
GROUP TOTAL	10,130	9,700	10,450	127	137		1,280	1,326	

1/ Includes processing

2/ 1957 acreage prospective.